

NAYI was one of my most unforgettable experiences. The entire week was dedicated to some of the most talented young individuals in Nebraska, who had the opportunity to network and gain valuable insights into our thriving agricultural industry. At NAYI, you'll find yourself surrounded by like minded individuals and hardworking young men and women who share a passion for agriculture.

Bryson Bickel, Gordon
2025 NAYI Returning Delegate

The opportunity to serve on the NAYC the last two years has been invaluable to me. I've been able to sharpen my leadership skills, network in the agriculture industry, and impact the lives of future Nebraska agricultural leaders. I'm so grateful for these opportunities - the NAYC and NAYI have truly changed my life!

Caleb Most, Ogallala
Current NAYC member

Attending NAYI was one of the most impactful experiences of my high school years. Throughout the week, I was able to explore the wide variety of careers in agriculture, connect with industry leaders, and gain lifelong skills. But my favorite part by far was the people. I met so many amazing students from across Nebraska who shared the same passion for agriculture. Over the two years I attended, I made at least 50 new friends, and those connections have become some of the most meaningful of my life. As someone who now attends Oklahoma State University, I want to emphasize that you don't have to be planning on attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to get something out of NAYI. The conference offers countless opportunities for both in-state and out-of-state students to grow, learn, and find their place in agriculture. I am so grateful I took part in this experience, and it shaped who I am today.

Addison Vavircek, Schuyler
2025 NAYI Returning Delegate

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT NAYI?

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NAYI 2026



For 55 years, the **Nebraska Agricultural Youth Council's (NAYC)** main goal has been the promotion of agriculture to Nebraska's youth. The NAYC consists of 21 college-age men and women who have dedicated their time and energy to educating youth about agriculture. The Council is selected annually to serve a one-year term. Membership is limited to three years.

Throughout their year, the NAYC participates in an array of agricultural programs including Elementary Classroom Visits, National Ag Week, the Nebraska State FFA Convention, mentorship programs, as well as their premier event, the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute (NAYI). All of these events give Council members a chance to learn more about agricultural opportunities available right here in Nebraska, as well as share their knowledge with the youth of this great state. The Council also holds an annual Industry Tour, which gives members the opportunity to learn more about Nebraska's diverse agricultural industry.



Fifty-five years ago, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture realized it had to do something about the ever-increasing problem of young people leaving the farms and ranches of Nebraska.

The idea of an Institute to expose young people to the opportunities available in agriculture was tried for the first time in 1972. The original **Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute** program was developed through cooperation between the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and 18 college-age young men and women who formed the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Council which now carries on the NAYC tradition of passion for the agricultural industry.

The delegates are what make NAYI what it is. Their enthusiasm and genuine interest make the week an unforgettable experience. Delegates are chosen through an application process highlighting their interest, involvement, leadership and achievement in agriculture.

These delegates have the opportunities to share their ideas with local, state and national speakers, along with young people from all across Nebraska.

NAYI is open to Nebraska high school juniors and seniors with a desire to learn about agriculture. The Institute is held annually in July at the University of Nebraska's East Campus.

The Institute is free of charge for the students to attend thanks to the agricultural businesses, organizations and commodity groups who graciously sponsor the program.

Just as agriculture is an ever-changing industry, NAYI is an ever-changing program, keeping pace with today's agriculture. Even though the program is constantly being developed, the original goal will remain the same – to keep Nebraskans involved and interested in agriculture.

